



The
**Co-operative
Difference**



Composting dead stock on farm

Composting is a biological process where microorganisms that are naturally present in the environment, break down organic wastes and leave a humus or manure-like product.

Collection services are the preferred option for dead stock, but if there is no collection service there are other disposal options:

- Burial/offal holes
- Burning
- Composting

Each of these methods has pros and cons that should be considered carefully depending on the farm and regional requirements.

For successful composting, you will need to consider:

- Site selection
- Equipment
- Other ingredients (inputs)
- Maintaining and monitoring the composting process
- Time and effort
- Suitable uses

**Composting Guidance:
DairyNZ: Composting Dead Stock**

Using Compost made with dead stock

There are concerns for impacts on dairy cows' health due to pathogens and other diseases e.g., Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, aka Mad Cow Disease) that may be in the compost. Therefore, this compost cannot be used on grazed pastures.

It can be used on cultivated soils where the crop will be harvested before feeding to cattle e.g., maize, and grain. But not forage crops e.g., brassicas.

Other uses could include domestic gardens, nurseries, under shelter belts, or planted areas.

